BUNDAY, per Year 200
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Panis-Kiosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for sublication with to have rejected articles returned, they

Fifty-sixth Congress.

must in all cases send stamps for that purpose,

The Congress which meets to-day will be called upon to grapple with problems so comprehensive and so profound in their significance that every resource of its statesmanship will be taxed to the utmost in the encounter.

Even simply as the Congress of 1900, the Fifty-sixth Congress would have had a peculiar distinction, though the settlement of no such questions had been imposed on it by antecedent events; but now It will be forever memorable in American history as the first Congress which had an opportunity to deal with the world-wide interests growing out of a new and greater development of America territorially and commercially. It assembles as the end of the greatest century since mankind came into being approaches, and at a time when the Nation is starting out

on a new and more brilliant career. The party of progress distinctively has but a narrow majority in the House of Representatives of this Congress, but it is sufficient if it is held together by wise statesmanship; and even in the opposition there may be some enlightened minds who will refuse to follow the lead of shortsighted associates in attempting to throw away the opportunity and resist the destiny of America.

The Composition of Congress.

The Fifty-sixth Congress, whose first session opens to-day, has plenty of work to do, but necessarily a good deal of its time will be given to emitting preliminary blasts from the campaign trumpet. On the Demoeratic side, the Hon. JOHN JACOB LENTZ Will have to weep over the calamities of his fugacious idel, the Hon, EMILIO AGUI-NALDO, "one of the heroes of the world;" the Hon. Joe Bailey will have to shield the Constitution with his illimitable shirt bosom, as usual; all the rag-tag and bob-tail of anti-expansion will have to howl its howl. The Octopus will be duly baked and grilled. Militarism and the money power will be solemnly banned. We rather pity the Hon. DAVID BREMNER HENDERSON and the substitutes whom he drafts into the chair during the weary hours when the Democratic brethren are foaming over the war of criminal aggression in the Philippines and butting woodenly against the iron fact of expansion.

Meanwhile, Gen. JOE WHEELER, the noblest Roman of them all, is criminally aggressing in the Philippines. Leaving him out, the House contains 189 Republicans, 167 Democrats, 5 Populists and 3 Silverites. The figures of the official list may vary slightly from those of the unofficial list, and there is always more or less uncertainty about the proper classification of the Fusionists, but in any event the Republican majority is slender. Better that it should be so, for wisdom and caution are more likely to mark the language and the measures of a Congress in which the dominant party is forced to do what it can rather than what it would.

In the Senate, the Republican majority is ample, the number of Republicans being 51 and the number of Democrats, Popus and Silver Republicans 35. We the Hon, WILLIAM MORRIS STEWART of Nevada among the Populists or the Silver Republicans, although it is his wish to remain unclassified. There are four vacancies, not including the Hon. KICHARD FRANKLIN Perrignew of South Dakota.

The relations of Hawaii to the United States should be defined by the Fifty-sixth Congress and a form of government prowided for it. Porto Rico, which is in an inferior state of political development, should at least have commercial freedom with the United States. This is a much more pressing question than that of the beginning of self-government among the Porto Ricans, as to whose political status a conservative course is wisely suggested by Secretary Root. The extension of the tariff and financial system of the United States to Porto Rico, whose market has been taken away by the war, is a matter of justice as well as of sound business. But we suppose that the proposition so to do will stir to mutiny and rage the gentlemen in Congress who have been passing the summer and fall in the compilation of speeches on "No Colonial System!"

The Philippines are likely to be the subject of debate enough, but the time has not yet come to make them the subject of legislation. The embers of war have yet to be extinguished. The erection of a form of civil government for the islands is still at a considerable distance and will require wary deliberation. Currency legislation, as demanded by a few enthusiasts, must be handled sensibly. The Fifty-sixth Congress does not need to waste time in merely undertaking to settle anew what already has been settled for twenty-six years.

On the Republicans of the Fifty-sixth Congress, and on the Hon. DAVID BREM-NER HENDERSON in particular, rests a responsibility which we do not doubt their capacity to discharge. But they should not try to do too much. After all, talk is the chief business and pleasure of Congress, although everywhere of making laws there is no end.

Triumph in War and in Peace.

The review by Secretary Roor of our civil and military achievements in the insular territories brought to us or our keeping by the war with Spain demonthem a system of government so greatly improved upon that from which they have been rescued that their inhabitants will recognize that they share with us the great advantages secured by American victory.

In Cuba a substantial regeneration of the island has already taken place. The sanitary condition of the towns and cities was so far transformed during the year from the worst imaginable, that Cuba, from being a veritable pest hole, has enjoyed unusual freedom from disease. Meantime industry, almost crushed out by the outrages and devastations of the long period of war antecedent to our occupation, is now reviving. Civil government, in which the people of the island are employed distances had been placed. The burghers

to the fullest extent possible, has been restored and purified, and made more just and efficient, the garrisons of our troops being meanwhile reduced steadily. While this process has been going on "the conduct of the Cuban people," Secretary Roor testifies, "has been admirable."

In Porto Rico the year "has been devoted to administering and improving the civil government of the island" and educating the people for self-government, in consultation with leading men among the inhabitants. A general system of education has been established. The courts have been reorganized and their methods purified, simplified and expedited. Reforms in municipal governments have been effected and experiments in the way of municipal elections are in progress. Bandits who had terrorized parts of the Island have been subdued and order and security have been restored, though industrial problems involving the prosperity of the island are yet to be solved by legislation of Congress.

The revenues of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines have been collected and disbursed under the direction of officers of the army with an honesty and a strict obedience to law wholly unknown in former administrations. Never before "has there been so small a proportion of the revenues applied to the cost of collection and the

expenses of government, or diverted to

private uses, or so great a proportion

applied to the benefit" of the inhabitants. In the Philippines the processes and benefits of just and efficient civil government have followed steadily the advance of our troops, having been extended wherever their occupation has been permanent. The courts have been organized and the most learned and competent native lawyers appointed to preside over them. The American system of education has been introduced and numerous schools established.

Everywhere, therefore, American adminstration is commending itself to the intelligence of the people of these islands as nonest, patient, just and efficient, and when better social and industrial conditions prevail, under the influences of continued peace and with the aid of legislation by Congress it will unquestionably produce results which will bring to them a degree of prosperity they have never before enjoyed. Thus, the purely military achievements of the war with Spain were not more creditable to American arms than the management of the civil affairs of our new possessions has been notable as a convincing demonstration of American ability and aptitude for government, since the conclusion of the conflict and the steady progress which has been made this autumn in rescuing the island of Luzon from the merciless devastation of AGUINALDO.

A Setback for Populism.

Populist Legislatures, undertaking to reduce to practice the theories of their party platforms, have had to be taught by the courts that there are such things in existence as State and Federal constitutional limitations upon acts destructive of business and property rights. A stern lesson of the sort is again furnished to them in the decision just handed down by Judge HOOK in the United States District Court at Topeka, in the case of the Kansas "Court of Visitation."

When, after the autumn elections in 1898, it became evident that the heyday of Populism had passed, the Populist Governor of Kansas called an extra session of the old Legislature for the purpose of doing as much harm as possible to the railroads, telegraph and insurance companies, and other business corporations in the State. before the new Anti-Populist Legislature came in office. The old Legislature met and created an extraordinary body known as the "Court of Visitation," to which were committed almost limitless powers of inspection, control and punishment of many of the corporations of the State. The old State Board of Railroad Commissioners was swept away and both railroads and tele graph companies were turned over to the mercies of the new Court of Visitation. To that body power was given to fix freight and passenger railroad rates and telegraph tolls and to appoint receivers and take control of the property of corporations which might disobey it.

Judge Hook holds that it is evident from a mere cursory examination that the rates which the Court of Visitation imposed were less than the required services actually cost, and that, accordingly, the law was of the nature of an act of confiscation pure and simple. He further decides that the Legislature undertook to endow its Court of Visitation with judicial, legislative and administrative powers that are in gross violation of the Constitution. not only of Kansas, but of the United States also.

Of course, an appeal from this decision is possible, but it is not likely to be taken. The Kansas people have recovered their sanity, and it is questionable if there is a lawyer in the State of sufficient prominence to be consulted, who would advise the Populist leaders that a successful attack upon Judge Hook's decision could be

The decision is a check and a warning to Populists, whether of Kansas or of any other State of the Union.

Boer Marksmanship.

The British casualties in South Africa have included an unusual proportion of officers, and a despatch after the fight at the Modder River said officers must cease to wear distinctive uniforms. The Boer have been living up to the old reputation as sharpshooters which they won in the days when one of their chief occupations was hunting on the Transvaal plateau. SELOUS, NICHOLSON and other hunters have told us that African game animals are wilder, swifter and more alert than those of any other part of the world. The Boers were trained in the best of hunting schools and became expert Nimrods, even if few of the foreign sportsmen who have hunted with them have been willing to admit that very many are first-class shots.

But hunters in South Africa have said. for several years past, that the younger Boers were not maintaining the reputation strates very clearly our ability to extend to of their fathers. The extermination of game in and near the Transvaal, they said. caused most of the young men to abandon the chase, and the cost of modern ammunition deterred most of them from sufficient practice to keep up to the mark as rifle experts. Some of Boer shooting records in the past few years distinctly indicated deterioration. It was found, for example, that each head of game killed by a party of hunters on the banks of the Limpopo in one week, with breechloading rifles, cost about thirty cartridges. Their record was also poor in the fight with Dr. JAMESON'S raiders. The Boers fired from behind rocks, while the enemy was on an exposed plain on which marks indicating

killed only twenty-three raiders and wounded less than that number, though they fired about six thousand cartridges.

Either the sportsmen have underestimated the average efficiency of the Boers of to-day or the latter were diligently practising with their guns for months before hostilities began. It was announced early this year that the burghers of the Orange Free State had been supplied by the Government with ammunition for rifle practice as the result of the meeting of Commandants at Bloemfontein. There is little doubt that the same thing was done in the Transvaal, though with less publicity. It is well known that the Transvaal Boers engaged in artillery practice under European direction for months before the first hostile shot was fired. The rifle record of the burghers thus far in the war certainly has not justified the poor opinion sportsmen have lately entertained of their marksmanship.

Steamship Lines to the Colonies.

Berlin despatches say that direct steamship service will probably be established between Germany and Samoa. The Samoan Islands are one of the two greatest centres of the copra industry and there is no doubt that regular steamship connection with Germany will stimulate the cultivation of the cocoanut palm on the German plantations. The German policy, like England's, is to develop her colonies by keeping them in close touch with herself and subsidies are given steamship companies, if necessary, to secure regular transport service. Every German colony in Africa is thus connected with German ports. The steamers run frequently only if the business interests involved demand it, but they must have regular dates for departure from colonial and home ports. German Southwest Africa, for example, has a steamer only every two months, but the people know when to expect the vessel and when it will sail.

Regular steamship service between Germany and the myriad little islands she possesses in Polynesia is not necessary nor practicable, but none the less these islands are in frequent communication with home ports by means of the German schooners incessantly plying among them. In this way the most important centres of the German trade between Apia on the south and Yap on the north, including Jaluit in the Marshall Islands and Matupi in the Bismarck Archipelago, and many lesser points are being developed. The schooners make transshipments to and from German steamers at Sydney of freight coming from or going to the German islands in Polynesia.

The decadence of the French establishments in Polynesia illustrates the folly of having colonies unless they are cared for and bound to the central mother country by regular trade connections. Only Noumea in New Caledonia is a port of call for French steamers. Tabiti, the Marquesas Islands, Tuamotu, Gambier and lesser French islands have to-day no trade relations with France, except such as are afforded by the haphazard visits of foreign vessels, These possessions are all fertile and valuable and are simply suffering from neglect. Tabiti has about 200,000 acres of tillable lands, but plantations have been abandoned and the inhabitants raise only what they need for food and clothing. Over 17,000 cocoanut palms were in bearing in 1886 for the copra trade, but it has now ceased. as has also the culture of cotton. The only article of export is the vanilla bean. Le Tour du Monde attributes the retrogression of the French islands to the discontinuance of direct communications with France and the failure to make good roads and other improvements, for which the colonists asked

Fortunately for the new colonies of our own country, there is no danger that desire and effort on the part of the United States to give them good government and good communication with the rest of the the world will be wanting.

Slim Jim.

The Hon. JAMES DANIEL RICHARDSON of Tennessee, whom a caucus of the Democratic members of the House of Representatives have selected to fill the exalted post which the Hon. Joe Bailey gave up in a fit of the mulligrubs, is a veteran with a cool head. "SLIM JIM" is as slick as he is slim. There is no Baileyism in his temperament. There is the possibility of diplomacy in him and he has no especial faculty of making enemies. He is not eloquent like Mr. Sulzer. He doesn't believe in electing Federal judges, as Mr. DE ARMOND does. He has never been warden of a penitentiary as Mr. BANKHEAD has, albeit the warden of a penitentiary has a cheerful job compared with that of leading the mob of Bryanites in the House of Representatives. A good straight Democrat, but not notably violent, Mr. RICHARDSON is probably as easonable a man as the House Democrats could have for their keeper.

Whatever honors Mr. RICHARDSON wears, he must be modest about them. He is only Keeper of the Democratic bears, whereas the Hon. Joe Bailey is Keeper of the Constitution by his own special appointment.

The Hon. BILLY MASON neglects a brilliant opportunity to lengthen the Thanksgiving

Is EDWARD ATRINSON dead?-Springfield Fortunately for the happiness of mankind. No! Mr. ATKINSON is truly altruistic in his culinary philanthropies. He wishes to do good to the race, but he carefully avoids eating his own messes. Consequently he is well preserved.

and his right hand is strong to hold the pen. The Democratic party has never had a Then what is BRYAN?

The amiable Mr. ROBERT BUCHANAN, who dashed at Mr. Swinnusse and Dants GABRIEL ROSSETTI years ago, is now slashing at RUDYARD KIPLING. Mr. BUCHANAN has a great and generous soul. He feels that genius is not genuine unless it is neglected like his

Governor-elect SMITH of Maryland says his State is back in the Democratic party to stay.— Augusta Chrenicle. Governor-elect Smith of Maryland omits to say that his State has come back to the Demo-eratic party by means of Republican quarrels

and by forgetting the Democratic platform. The Hon. JOSEPH CLAY STYLES BLACK-BURN, that artesian well of fire, admits that TAYLOR was elected Governor of Kentucky. and the Hon. WILLIAM GOEBEL may now g and weep before the handsome certificate given him by Col. BRYAN.

"Cramwell."

To the Epiron or The Sux-Sie: Additional poetical proof of the correct pronunciation of the name Cromwell may be found in a Roundhead carol in Peveril of the Peak, a stauza of

There was bing old Sir Geoffrey loved whiskey and mum well And to turn the beer glass over his thumb well. Well, But he fled like the wind before Fairfax and Cromwell, Which nobody can deny. ARTRUR GUTTERMAN. THE SOUTH APRICAN CAMPAIGN.

The British losses in the South African cam paign to date from all causes are put at 4,180, and of these 1,000 are described as missing These figures are a great jump from those of Nov. 18 when the losses were officially given as 2,779, out of which 1,676 were set down as missing. At the same date the Boer authorities at Pretoria acknowledged to having 1,276 military and 62 political prisoners on their hands, so that with those they have captured since there must be about 1,500 British officers and soldiers now at Pretoria. That still leaves some 400 missing not accounted for. The reported intention of the British Govern

ment to continue pouring troops into South

Africa until there are 120,000 men in the field

only shows how much they underrated both the resources and resolution of the Boers. whose prestige has been so much subanced by all that has occurred since hostilities opened that it will hardly be much impaired by the ultimate defeat which seems inevitable, however long it may be delayed. When that number of British troops is assembled in South Africa there will remain practically nothing of the regular army in the United Kingdom, and all reliefs for the Colonial and Indian garrisons will be suspended. It may be noted that there is no longer any talk of sending a second contingent from India as was at one time proposed The Kimberley garrison is now in direct communication with the relief column at the Modder River by means of searchlight signals. which will enable them to act in cooperation when the column again moves forward. The officer commanding in Kimberley reports the capture by a portion of his command of a Boer westward, from which it would nager to the appear that the investment on that side must have been materially weakened to reenforce the commandos sent toward the Modder

The Rhodesia Chartered Company's police occupying the Sikwane Mountain near Gaberones, about 100 miles above Mafeking. in conjunction with a small body of Khama's Bamangwate levies, has surprised a Boer laager at Derde Poort on the frontier near the Marieo River. In the fighting the Boer Commandant of the Rustenburg contingent was

killed. The latest reports of the armament of the circle of forts defending Pretoria is that they are mounted with 24 and 26 centimetre guns besides a number of guns of smaller caliber and quick-firing. The supply of projectiles and explosives is said to be ample for a prolonged siege, and the small arm ammunition that was laid in before the war be-gan amounted to 36,000,000 cartridges. In connection with this provision a curious story is told. About two years ago the Transvaal Government caused inquiries to be made as to the consumption of rifle ammunition by the German army during the Franco-German War, and being informed that the total quantity used was 18,000,000, it was immediately decided to lay in double that quan-

The Role of Insects in the Propagation and

Treatment of Plague. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Dr. Manson explains that if an infected rat dies, it is eaten by other rate, or the fleas infesting it would transfer themselves to other rate and. with them, plague bacilli. This explanation, says Dr. Cassidy of the Ontario Board of Health, offers a reasonable theory of the infectiousness of plague among rats, but leaves a hiatus as to the communication of the disease from rat to man. Needless to say, in famine times rats are eaten by men. Hindus and Chinese, and, if plague-stricken, may transfer that disease to their hosts; but it is strange that the rat, which flees the companionship of man. should, when dying of plague, communicate his fleas to the superior vertebrate. And yet so t seems to be.

Ogato, a Japanese scientist, was the first to baerve the role played by fleas in the propagation of plague. He discovered in the bodie of fleas the bacillus of plague and concluded that the disease could be inoculated by the bites of these insects. A fact noted by Simond is very interesting. A great number of cases of plague were observed in persons who had been in contact with rats and mice; but, on the other hand, these contacts were harmless where the rats had been dead twenty-four hours. Now, it is well known that fleas rapidly leave the bodies of animals after death, which explains their harmlessness n the cases observed. Simond crushed fleas caught on rate or dogs sick with the plague njected the resulting liquid tato mice which duly succumbed to plague after an interval of from three to thirteen days (eight days disinfecpected fleas died five days after being bitten. with all the characteristic symptoms of plague. Nuittae doubts this method of transmission of

Nuith and the characteristic symptoms of plague.

It must also be observed that the flea of the rat (Typhopsylla muscull) is a distinct genus from the flea of man (Pulex irritans), and that it has not yet been proved that it bites its human host.

The ants which devour rata dead from the plague and which do not catch it (Haffkine, 1897) may also be a source of danger, not so much by their bites as by infecting water and food upon which they are often found in great numbers. In view of these facts, a ratactioning campaign may be seriously considered by the sanitary authorities of European and American cities. In the opinion of the foreign physicians, who have been sent to study the plague at Oporto, the sanitary cordon in operation around that city is illusory, since it has not prevented the spread of the disease to a village about twelve miles out, and dangerous because the increase of poverty will intensify the spread of the plague. The large amount of money required to keen up a cordon of soldiers would be more usefully employed at Oporto in organizing depots for disinfection, in procuring the destruction of unsanitary houses, and in making provision against overcrowding and poverty. It is now thought that the plague will continue at Oporto for months, perhaps for years in new generation of rate become infecting from the old homes of rate; and mankind's infection is renewed, again and again, without increasing in intensity. It will be almost impossible to prevent the contamination of other European cities with the plague will continue at Oporto for months, perhaps for years in a new generation of rate become infecting from the old homes of rate; and mankind's infection is renewed, again and again, without increasing in intensity. It will be almost impossible to prevent the contamination of other European cities with the plague, will be almost impossible to prevent the contamination of other European cities with the plague, because in many of them there are thousands of people who suffer from direct poverty an nust also be oberved that the flea of the

Maryland Democrats Speak Out, From the Baltimore American.

The Maryland Democratic Association (free silver) restorday formulated an address to its followers in this State. A part of the address is as follows: "The decisive victory in Nebraska, following other significant events of this year, the New York dollar dinner, the stampeding of Tammany Hall at their Fourth of July calebration by ex-Governor Hogg's neution of Bryan, the declaration of the Pennsyl vania Convention for 'our matchless leader. William Jennings Bryan,' the collapse of the Saratoga conference and the Van Wyck boom and the recent roso-lution of the New York State Committee recognizing Bryan as the 'natural, approved leader of the Demo cratic party in the nation, have convinced every one that Bryan is the strongest candidate our party could name. The next President will be Bryan or McKin

ley and every reason points to Bryan.
"The triumph in Nebraska shows his strength in the far West. The fact that the Republicans poiled in Ohio this year 100,000 votes less than in 1896 shows a strong revolt against McKinleyiam in the Contral States; the result in Marriand indicates that Bryan will carry the solid South, and Mr. Croker says he will carry New York.

"If Maryland sends delegates to the National Con-vention who will be kickers and prophets of evil in the convention, and will come home to eat their own predictions or sulk or bolf, we will begin the campaign at a great disadvantage; but let us be rep sented by men in accord with the principles of Demorracy as determined by its highest tribunal, who will return from the convention to enter with courage and enthusiasm into the campaign for the success of its nominees, and Marriand will keep her place with her sister States of the South."

Russia's Recent Advance Probably Based on an Understanding With England. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As I apent many years of my life among the Afghan people and passed through the two Afghan wars, it may be of interest if I explain what I

of Cabul in the spring. About two months ago it was stated that Lord Curzon had determined to reverse the policy of his prodecessors and to return to the 'masterly inactivity" of the late Lord Lawrence, and, moreover, that this was all the nore surprising because Lord Curzon was an avowed statesman of the advanced school with regard to central Asia.

consider to be the true import of the news that

Russia intends to send an embassy to the court

It must be borne in mind that there still remains in England a very strong party bias, especially among the Liberals, against Lord Salisbury's policy and in favor of that of the late Mr. Gladstone with regard to Afghanistan. It must therefore be explained what was meant by the advanced policy initiated by the late Sir Bartle Frere. It never meant, for a single moment, the conquest of Afghanistan, but merely the establishment of embassies or agents in all parts of central Asia. And if Lord Curron's book of travel through central Asia is carefully studied it will clearly be seen that Lord Curzon is in favor of a very friendly understanding with Russia on the one hand, and of a vigorous frontier policy on the other.

I have travelled in Chitral and through the Khyber, and into parts of Afghanistan, and I know from personal observation that it is not desirable to locate British garrisons in those parts any longer than they are needed, and the withdrawal of the garrison from Chitral will meet with the approval of all the supporters of Lord Hallabury's frontier policy. Besides this, now that the Afridi tribes have once more become loyal to the British Government, the whole aspect of affairs on the frontier is In the present condition of things it would

be completely in harmony with Lord Curson's avowed policy that Russia should be invited to send an agent to Cabul so that the British and Russian agents may be able to thoroughly understand the condition of affairs on the spot. The time has surely come when there must be an understanding with Russia with regard to Afghanistan, even as there is with regard to Persia. Persia is considered within the sphere of Russian diplomacy, and Afghanistan within the sphere of Great Britains. But the advanced school of statesmanship in regard to central Asia maintains that the whole country should be opened out by railways, and if Ameer Abdur Rahman had been amenable to reason there would have been a railway from Samarkand to Peshawar by this time. With a Russian embassy in Cabul and a thorough understanding between Russia and Great Britain central Asia will be rapidly occupied to commerce, and there will be no longer that closed door which has been such a hindrance to the spread of civilization. The "do-nothing policy" of Lord Lawrence was intended to draw an impassable line along the foot of the hills and to allow the Afghan tribes to do as they pleased. But the Peshawar Valley is a part of Afghanistan inhabited by Afghan people and yet under British Government. It is an open sore with the Afghan tribes the rail bone of contention between the ruler of Alshanistan and the British Government. It is an open sore with the Afghan mutiny of 1867, to bring the frontier line of British India back to the River Indus. On the contrary his policy is, by showing a firm front, to convince Russian mission with honor, and turned a deaf car to the friendly offers made by Lord Sallebury as the Secretary of Cavul received a Russian mission with honor, and turned a deaf car to the friendly offers made by Lord Sallebury as the Secretary of State for India under Lord Beaconsfield's administration. The establishment of a Russian embassy at Cabul in the light of the recent Alshan war would simply mean war to the knife with Russia, unless, according to the line of action so clearly indicated in Lord Curzon's embassy at Cabul in the light send an agent to Cabul so that the British and Russian agents may be able to thoroughly

A GOVERNMENT EXAMINER IN THE APORAN LANGUAGE.

As Easy as Rolling Off a Log! To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SUR! The illogical and unnatural proposition of Bishop Spalding to restrict marriages is not in keeping with the require ments of our time, as it would not only be impracticable, but it would also fail to remedy the many evils under which we live, even if it could be en-forced. Instead of our political economy, our Government and our religion being founded upon principles which are in harmony with she immutable laws of nature they are, to a great degree, diametrically opposed to them. Therefore, will the good Bishop and others of his profession throw aside some of the husks and hulls of superstition and kindly sesist us to live and consistently enjoy curselves in obedience to the immutable laws we find within and around us? I am decidedly in favor of an early union of the port of the virtue and dignity of the family. This, however, cannot be done consistently under our present methods of civilization. but we can easily change them by our votes at the ballot box, so that our natural require-

ments can be abundantly provided for and mankind made prosperous and happy.

The secret of this whole matter lies chiefly in the acquirement of only three things or conditions namely: general intelligence, temperance and the equitable distribution of the products of labor. These are to be obtained by a vigorous prosecution of our free school system throughout the country. the removal of all special taxes from intoxicating liquors and the application of the equitable tax in lieu of all other taxes. With these few changes abcalled overproduction, hard times and pauperism could not occur. We have muscle, brai chinery enough to produce a thousand fold more wealth than we now have and the producers of wealth are ready and saxious to do this, and to have it equitably distributed, so as to enjoy the honest results of our labor during the little time we live hence our earnest desire to establish The Equitable

NORMAN EDDT. NEW YORK, Nov. 29.

Our Fing in the Philippines. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I'm not laboring inder the delusion that I'm a poet, but these lame lines express pretty accurately how the men over here teel about the people in America who are praying to see us whipped. Co. "D." ath U. S. Infantry

Jano, Island of Panay, Philippine Islands, Oct. 17,

The sun shoots white-hot arrows That bore us through and through; The sandfiles sting like fire. Each breath is a labored "whew; Like heat-spont dogs in August, We pant and foll our tongues; Vainly for water gape our months, And for cool air suck our lungs.

Off there on the wooded footbills. Where the cover is thick and wild.

Are your "new-caught, sullen people, Haif savage and half child: And there by that paim lies Billy. And yonder lie Frank and Jim. Each with a Mauser bullet hole That your protoges put through him

To hell with your new-caught convert Let your pocketrage, pale, rot furled: We fight, like our pioneer fathers, To make this a white man's world Good kindling, your milk-hued pamphlets, Chock of featherbed cant and creed The wastes we water with white man's blood. A white man's world will feed.

We came at the nation's orders, We've found that the land is good. The fields we fertile with savage dead. Will fatten with white man's food: We clear the way with the rifle! Send your plowman to mark our blaze: His section corners we movument With the graves of these Sghting days!

Oh! Hly-faced neuters, home-wedded. Think ye that we suffer and die To feather the way for a nerreless caut. And further a bloodless lie? We fight for the gold-shod mountains Pat fields centuried o'er with weeds! Yea! we fight with the arm of the fittest. To supply the survivors' needs!

Rush, men ! Through the tangled jungle. Till labored lungs pant and rebel. Then down on your bellies, clean heart-spent Pire low ! Plant each prace-seed well ! fight for no naus our nonsense! We're taking an all-time lease On one of the fertile world-wa-tes.— There plant ye the Garden of Peacel

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND IN AFGHANIS- CRISIS COMING IN NEWFOUNDLAND,

Sir James Winter, the Fremier, Being Forced Out-Effect on the Island's Future. QUEBEC, Canada, Dec. 1.—Private advices from St. Johns, Newfoundland, brings details of the Cabinet crisis now existing there, which seems bound to involve the defeat of the Winter Administration when the Legislature reembles in January next. Sir James Winter. the present Premier, is well known both in Washington and Quebec, where he attended the meeting of the Joint High Commission last year. He was formerly Chief Justice of the colony, and resigned the office a couple years ago to form the Administration that bears his name. By far the strongest

of years ago to form the Administration that bears his same. By far the streamest man in his Cabinet, however, was Mr. Morine, who has been acting for some time both as treasurer of the colony and also as Minister of Marine and Fisheries. It was understood that after holding office for a few months. Sir James Winter was again to retire to the beach and to be succeeded as leader of the Government by Mr. Morine. The latter's friends are now indignant because Sir James, as the result of dissentions in the Cabinet, has asked Mr. Morine for his resignation, and his demand has been enforced by the Government.

Mr. Dawe, a member of the Government without portfolio has resigned out of sympathy with Mr. Morine. The ministerial party in the Assembly is thus hopelessly divided. Ten of its members support Sir James Winter and ten support Mr. Morine. The leader of the opposition is Mr. Bond, the joint author of the tariff fresty with the United States, known as the Blaine-Bond convention, which was abrogated by Great Britian at the demand of the Canadian Government. Mr. Bond has also a following of ten members and there are six or sight independents in the House.

With the coming defeat of the Government, there is considerable anxiety as to the action to be taken by the Governor of the colony. He may send for Mr. Morine to form a Government or he may sell in Mr. Bond. Mr. Bond has also believed to favor closer relations between Newfoundland and the United States, while Mr. Morine, who is an old Nova Scotian, is thought to have the ambition of leading the colony into the Canadian confederation. But neither Mr. Bond nor Mr. Morine can form a stable Government without the support of at least a section of the independent element in the House, or the holding of general elections.

The Czar of the island, Mr. E. G. Reid, is also to be heard from, and he is a more important personality in Newfoundland just now than even the Governor of the colony. As he is the absolute owner of the reliway and of all the principal lands, forests,

QUEER INDIANA FARMS.

Land Devoted to Providing Rabbits, Cats

and Other Animals for Market. MULBERRY, Ind., Dec. 2 .- At New Harmony, Posey county, Herman Euler has fitted up buildings on ten acres of his land for the rais ing of Angora cats. Mr. Eular raised 3,000 cats last year and found a ready market for them in the East at \$25 apiece. This year the product will be even larger than last.

One mile from New Harmony is a leech farm. The owner is a German, who emigrated from that section of the Fatherland where men make a livelihood by raising leeches, which are very necessary to the medical profession. He found himself in possession of some swampy land in Indiana on which he could not raise any crop. He at once sent to Germany for leaches and prepared his swampy land for their reception. He planted them in moss-covered vats and they flourished and increased in numbers from the very start. He finds a ready sale for them among the large wholesale drug firms of Chi-

among the large wholesale drug firms of Chicago. Detroit, New York. Philadelphia, St. Louis. New Orleans and San Francisco. He is meeting with such success that he is now increasing his plant.

Near Wabash, Ind., Nathan Meyer has sixty acres of land devoted to rabbits. The tarm is a unique one. Mr. Meyers has this year supplied the market with 1,000,000 rabbits and has about one hundred and sixty thousand left for his December holiday trade, besides enough bunntes on hand for breeding purposes to nearly double the production in 1600. The meat is delicious and the demand for it is constantly on the increase. The pelts or skins find ready sale among furriers and glove makers, while the hair is existensively used in the manufacture of "crush" hats. Many of the rabbits become household pets. The largest consignments of rabbits go to big wholesale dealers in New York and Baltimore.

to big wholesale dealers in see for a kunk timore.

There are no less than one dozen skunk farms throughout indiana, and all are bring-ing in big profits. The animals are raised for their pelts, that find a ready market at \$1.50 to \$2 each, and for the fat which is "tried out" and used for medicinal purposes.

There are also Indiana farms where rattle-snakes, frogs and weazels are raised in large

In St. Joseph county Mark Beeger has a peppermint farm, and there are many others on the Indiana-Michigan State line presided over by industrious Poles. All the farms are successful.

National Reform Convention to Uphold Christianity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: convention to discuss the underlying principles of Christian citizenship, to open in the Broadway Tabernacle on Tuesday evening, Dec. 5. and holding over Wednesday and Thursday, is under the auspices of the National Reform As-

The aim of this association is to preserve the Christian features of the institutions of our country, as, for example, to maintain the Bible in the schools, to protect the sacred rest of the Sabbath, to defend the family from a wrecking system of loose marriages and easy divorces. There is a fear that the grasp of Christianity is being loosened from these institutions, that secularism that discards all religion is at war. especially with the principles of Christianity, and aims completely to divorce Christianity, and aims completely to divorce Christianity from our entire civil life, and is clamoring loadly that prayer shall be abandoned in the opening sessions of Congress, that all chaplains shall be discontinued in the army and navy, saylums, penitentiaries, &c., that the Bible shall be excluded from our public schools, and in such ways completely dechristianize our civilization.

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The very large percentage of the people of this country, it is believed, are in favor of a Christian Babbath. Christian temperance, a Christian family, &c., and the small per cent., banded together in the loose principles of secularism. Is to often found in the accendency.

Let us as Christians meet to recher, look over these vital questions, see if anything can be done to errest the tide of demoralization that is sweeping around us. Healthy agistion can be productive of nothing but good. All will be cordially welcome.

H. H. Ggorge.

Religious Decay in Country Villages.

From the Boston Daily Advertiser. "The Beligious Conditions in Rural Communities" was the subject of discussion at the first winter ban-quet of the Massachusetts Episcopelian Club at the notel Brunswick last evening, and it was sureed by the speakers that they are deplorable in the smaller New England townships. One village after another was indicated in which the religious power is decay. ing and the power remaining impaired by sectarian "There is a spiritual destitution in a large part of

the rural districts of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont," said Bishop Hall. "In many places occasional services are held, especially in the summer months, by atudents and other volunteer workers, but the fact remains that larm districts a e without permanent pastoral care. I don't suppose there is more vice and immorality in our country districts than in Boston, or more indifference to religion but often there is no steady upholding of any high standard of living. Children of 10 or 12 years come to the Sunday schools and know nothing of the Lord's Prayer or of the Ten Commandments. There is no adequate knowledge of the Scriptures. Prof. Mills, after dealer my the decay of religion in the rural districts, said: "Three things must be if oural New England is to be resentrated: Money to increase the dioceses and to work them to the ost advantage, men of tact and of cultivation who know the truth and whom the truth has made gloriously free; religion and consecration."

The Language as Spoken in Virginia.

To THE POTTON OF THE SUN-Sir: A Southern oman would like through your columns to thank Mr. A. S. Sanzay for his vindication of the South. and especially of V prints, as to the correct made and pronunciation of the English language. Without egotism. I may corroborate his statement as a well-krown fact that the most learned English people aver that Virginians speak the most correct English in America.

Of course in every State there are corruptions and car-lessness of speech, and Virginia is not exempt from this charge, but among scholars and philo o-giats we claim to be a correct English-speaking paople. When one reflects that Virginia was the first colon; settled by the English in 1807, it is not surprising that among the old families we still re-tain the English customs and traditions and mode of speech as well. A VIRGINIAN,

POLITICAL NOTES.

The application of home rule principles of the ratio stamp to the collection of liquor license fees does not appear to work very well in Chicago, according to the recent statement of the City Treasurer, that there are 2,500 salcon heepers of that city who are more than two months behind in the payment of their quarterly license fee of \$100 each, making a total of \$415,000 due the city. The City Treasurer says that the saloon men are hard up and if the city present for money many of them will so out of the business, and that the city is sure of its money, as in most cases the licenses are guaranteed by the browers who back the saloon men, but are reluctant to pay in advance, preferring to have the saloons earn the

The total sum paid to landlords for the use of premises for the September primaries was \$12,045 in the belough of Manhattan, \$7,005 in the borough of Brooklyn, \$1,155 in the borough of The Brook, \$710 in Queens and \$400 in Richmond. In fifty of the sixty Assembly districts into which the city is divided there were no factional contests in either party and practically no need of a primary. The expense of election officers was: Manhattan, \$14, 525; Brooklyn, \$10,410; The Bronx, \$1,515; Queens, \$1,455, and Richmond, \$800.

Miss Florence King of Chicago, is said to be the first woman to hold a Government office in the Ter-ritory of Alaska. She has been appointed Commis-sioner of Deeds by Gov. Brady in Sunrise City, on Cook's Inlet.

The voters of Maryland do not appear to take very kindly to constitutional amendments. Maryland being a decidedly conservative State. The amendment recently offered for popular ratification for an ncrease in the salary of the Supreme Court Judges from \$3,500 to \$5,000 was endorsed by both political conventions, but it was defeated at the polls by a large majority.

The Silver Republicans, so-called, a small fraction of the Republican party in the mining States of the Rocky Mountain region and the Northwest, look with no favor whatever on the propertion to discard and take up, as some Bryanties are proposing to do, the question of anti-expansion. The Silver Repub-licans in 1896 issued their convention call on July 20, 1896, dating it at Manitou, Col., and is was signed by Senstors H. M. Teller, Fred T. Debois, and Lee Mantle and Representatives Charles 8. Hartman, Edgar Wilson and John F. Shafroth. The convention took place in St. Louis four days later and the nomination of Bryan and Sewall was ratified at it. In the Pacific, Bocky Mountain and North-western States the policy of the federal government for enlarged trade, increased markets, and the paintenance of American sovereignty is extremely popular and these Silver Republicans, while adher ng to the cause of Bryan on the financial question have no tolerance of the project to oppose the foreign policy of the McKinley Administration

Two Southern States which elected Governors a the recent November contest were Maryland and Mississippi. The population of the two States in 1890 differed about 250,000, Mississippi having 1.269,e00. and Maryland 1,042,390. The latter has, however, grown in population during the past ten years, and its population now, probably, equals that of Mississippi. On Jan. 1, 1899, the Governor of Mississippi estimated the population of that State at 1.625.000, and the Governor of Maryland at the same time calculated the population of the cast was 245,000. In Mississippi, however, the total vote was only 48,000. This disparity between the vote and population in Maryland and Mississippi does not, however, seem likely to be long-lived, for there is a proposition to be submitted to the Mary land Legislature this winter to disfranchise the colored voters of Maryland in future on the Missis

The Municipal Assembly has adopted a resolution calling on the Auditor of the Department of Finance to audit, and on the Comptroller to pay, the bill of Thomas McNamara and Garry Williams, amounting 31, 1897; the same to be charged to the appropria tion for "city contingencies" for 1899. This resolution was adopted by the Council on Feb. 7, 1899. and by the Board of Alderman on Oct. 31, 1899.

Two candidates have announced themselves as in the field for the Democratic nomination for Attor-ney General of Illinois next year, Bufus M. Potts of Tay lorville and Bardy W. Masters of Lewiston. The The present Attorney-General is E. C. Akin, elected in 1896. His Democratic opponent was George A. Trude of Chicago. The Republican plurality was 182,000.

The successor of Roger Q. Mills as United States senator from Texas is Charles A. Culberson, a native of Alabama and son of David B. Culberson, who for district of Texas in the lower house of Congress. His first entry into Texas politics was in 1890, when he was nominated for Attorney-General. He was riected, and in 1892 reflected without opposition. In 1894 he became a candidate for Governor in the Democratic Convention against Judge John H. Reagan, ex-Senator member of Jefferson Davis's Cabinet, and S. W. T. Lanham, who had served his district for ten years in Congress. He obtained the Democratic nomination a) d was elected by 50,000 majority. He received a ond nomination in 180d. Populism was strong in Texas at that time and the Populist State Commit tee effected a fusion with the Republicans. The contest was heated, but Gov. Culberson won by 61.

000. Bryan's plurality in Texas was 280,000. The four cities-three of them carried by Repub licans and one of them carried by the Democrats at the recent election-affected by charter changes made by the Legislature are Albany, Rochester, Syracuse and Troy under Chapter 182 of the Laws of 1898, known as the White charter for cities of the second class. Nearly all municipal officials in them will be elected by the direct vote of the people. New York and Buffalo are the only two first-class

Eighteen thousand bills and joint resolutions ware presented by members in the last Congress, 12,60% in the House and 5,855 in the Senate.

The question has been asked who are the three oldest employees in the municipality. It is answered: A. T. Campbell of the Corporation Counsel's office, J. T. Nagle, clark of the Board of Statts tics, and T. S. Brennan. Deputy Commissioner of Public Charities. Mr. Campbell was appointed in 1855, Mr. Nazle got his first office during the Me-

office nearly as long. The American city which during the first six conths of 1800 showed the larguet sain in the number and estimated cost of projected buildings was Cleveland, Ohio, New York came se. o :d and Kansas City third.

Under a recent decision of the Illinois Supreme Court in the long and bitterir disputed question of legal title to the Lake Michigan water front at Chicago, much encouragement has been infraed into the project of converting the lake front into a park from Jackson Park to Evanston. The decision is the final decree in the Gordon case and involves the riparian rights of every property owner along the lake shore. Those interested in the Chicago park system point out that if under this decision all submerged land in navigable waters is under the con trol of the State there is no reason why Culcago should not possess a vast park system on the lake front

State Senators are to be elected in the various districts of town next year simultaneously with the choice of Governor and of Presidential electors It is the first time in the history of New York under the present system of represent tion that Senator and Presidential electors are to be voted for together on the same ticket and on the same day.

and canvarsing election returns. Rectucky is now the only wate in the country in which complete returns from the recent election are not yet known.

In the Presidential election of 1 94, St. Louis was a popular conventing city. Mr. McKinley being nominated there by the Republicane and Mr. Bryan the Papulata. There is now, however, so gen eral expectation of the accep ance of St. Louis so a convention city by either political party, the Repus heans being opposed to the selection of a city in a State which gave Bernan a substantial majority and those Democrats who favor Missouri giving their

What Cigarettes Did to This Boy. From the tiene and Leader.

prefer nee to Kansas Otty.

Bernserized, Ohio, Nov. 27 — David Hurley, 19 years of died from the effects of eigerette smoken. His father says the boy smoked \$5 worth of eigerette seed up until he collected like an old man. His lange seed up until he collected like an old man. His lange were no bouls hape and his blood was very thin. The physician orened the row's arm a short time after death and lound that the main artery illd not contain a drop of blood. It had dried up. The boy's father requested that the case be made public so that it would serve so warning to other boys.